**Hospice Care In EMS: Things You Never Knew You Would Have To Do**

**Keynote/General Session or Breakout 60-90 min**

**Overview: Medic 41 please respond to 911 Emergency Way for a 54 year old female with terminal breast cancer and agonal breathing. When you arrive the patient’s husband tells you that he thinks his wife is dying and she has a DNR. What do you do now, why are you even here? In this course, we will talk about the complicated social dynamic that can exist with hospice patients as well as how to handle these often difficult encounters.**

**Objectives:**

1. The student will be able to list complications that can arise with hospice patients.
2. The student will be able to identify methods to deal with end of life situations.
3. The student will be able to explain how to provide end of life pain management
4. The student will be able to list techniques used to communicate with the family in these situations.

**Outline: Target Audience-All emergency personnel**

**Intro:** Hospice Care and the Increasing Role of EMS

**Concepts**

1. What is Hospice?
   1. Define hospice care
   2. Talk about how hospice care works
   3. Hospice support
2. Why Do These Patients Call EMS?
   1. They cannot contact their hospice nurse
   2. They are scared
   3. Often not prepared for death
3. Understanding the Stages of Grief
   1. What are the stages of grief?
   2. Identifying which stage your patient and their family are in
   3. How to approach these stages and their responses
4. What Can EMS Do For These Patients?
   1. Provide comfort measures to include end of life pain management
   2. DNR does not mean, “DO NOT TREAT”!!!
   3. Provide reassurance for the family with end of life situations.
5. **Case Study**
6. Summary
   1. Challenges we face with hospice patients
   2. Challenge to be a RockStar Medic.